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February/April 2002

Spring Fling 2002 draws 226 to Flatwoods

With more vendors than ever before, Spring Fling 2002 is now a moment in WVLA history. Programs ran the gamut of interest from *Book Repair* to *Programming for Young Adults* to *Diversity Training for Library Staff* to *Lying with a Straight Face*. Programs of interest to all levels of library personnel were presented by those employed in the library field as well as those dealing with special fields of endeavor.

Two hundred twenty six people registered to attend the conference. The Con-

ference Center at Flatwoods continues to be a most desirable location for this conference. Not only is it located at the geographic center of the state, which makes it an easier drive than some locations, but also one of the real pluses of this site is the staff of the Convention Center. These folks are committed to working with WVLA to provide whatever is needed to make the conference experience a positive one for all involved. To date, the evaluations for Thursday have been quite positive with most of the pro-

grams receiving a rating of 4 or 5.

Just as no man is an island, no one person can be credited with the success of any conference. This year's Spring Fling owes a large part of its success to Myra Ziegler, who worked with the vendors, Ann Farr and her staff from Greenbrier County who handled the registration process, my staff, Brian Bradley, Amanda Clay, and Chris Gore who did whatever needed done, the Marketing committee, and to the many presenters who shared freely of their time and expertise.

Legislative Committee focuses on creating support for innovation, improved funding

By Peggy Bias, Director, Putnam County Library

The Legislative Committee will focus attention on creating support for innovative ways to improve library services and funding during the upcoming year. While we saw no significant improvements in this year's allocation to libraries, we have been active in laying groundwork for future goals.

During the past legislative session, efforts to implement funding for the Digital Library continued with Frances O'Brien, Dean of Libraries at WVU, and Barbara Winters, Dean of Libraries at Marshall University, focusing much of their time and attention on bringing these valuable electronic information sources to the citizens of West Virginia through public, school and academic libraries. A presentation before the House Education Committee was a positive step toward making legislators aware of the opportunities this project could bring to our state, but there are still legislators out there who do not understand what the Digital Library can do for West Virginia. Librarians are the most credible source of information on this subject and legislators want to hear from their local librarians. During this time of campaigning you have an opportunity to

interact with your legislators to make them aware of what they can do for their community and their library.

Efforts were initiated during the recent legislative session to put together legislation

that would direct currently uncollected magistrate fines and penalties to libraries and county parks. Research on that topic continues, as well as focusing on additional opportunities for improved funding.

Cabell County Public Library celebrates 100th anniversary

By Steve Christo

With the opening of the Huntington Public Library in a small room in the annex of the Florentine Hotel on March 1, 1902, the first 100 years of library service to the community was begun. With an opening day collection of 750 books, the library quickly outgrew the facilities and in 1904, the library received an initial grant of \$25,000 from Andrew Carnegie for a new facility. That same year, the neoclassical building on the corner of 9th Street and 4th Avenue was dedicated. In the following years, library services were expanded and branches were added across the county with the library's name being changed to Cabell-Huntington Public Library to reflect the expan-

sion. With a local law, the library was again renamed to the Cabell County Public Library and services were increased with the library becoming the headquarters for a regional service center assisting libraries in three adjoining counties. The library outgrew the Carnegie facility and in 1980, a new library building was opened directly across 9th Street.

To celebrate the first 100 years, the Cabell County Public Library has planned a yearlong schedule of events to commemorate this historic occasion. The first of these events was a fundraising gala to support the library's newly established endowment fund and to finance a few of the activities

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A Message from the President

It is hard to believe that it is mid-April as I write this. I have been President for more than four months, and it has definitely been an educational experience. I have scanned down lists of new bills introduced this legislative session looking for those affecting libraries, and was amazed by the concerns expressed on myriad issues in our state. I have been led back and forth over the rooftops during legislative day on March 5th by a former delegate who knew all the shortcuts as we spoke to members of our local delegation.

I have attended dedications of new libraries and been favorably impressed by the direction that libraries are taking in our state. The new downtown library for West Virginia University is a perfect example of combining the old building with a bright modern facility to preserve the traditional role of the library at the same time expanding it to utilize all the latest technology. I recommend a visit to the new WVU Library if you are ever in the Morgantown area; the view from the sixth floor is worth the trip.

On a more serious note, it is increasingly obvious that funding issues for libraries in a period of belt-tightening have statewide implications. These issues con-

vince me even more strongly of just how important that the Planning Process the Association is now undertaking will be. Without goals, we cannot move forward; we are left standing trying to protect what we already have.

The Planning Process deals with issues of funding, governance, collections, continuing education, technology and the organization of the Association itself. All are interconnected; without stable funding we cannot build relevant collections, without continuing education we cannot effectively utilize technological advances, without a galvanized Association, we cannot effectively lobby for our goals.

The Planning Process is the first step of a journey. It will decide on our final destination and recommend the best routes to arrive there. Thus, the theme for this presidency is "Setting the Goals" The Future for West Virginia Libraries in the 21st Century." Hopefully the Planning Committees will arrive at their goals in time for the Fall Conference in Pipestem from October 16th-18th.

On a more news-oriented front, the Association has a new Chair for the School Library Division, Beth Stefanowicz, School and Library Media Coordinator at Fairmont State College who helped with

programming at Spring Fling and is planning to contact school librarians statewide.

Yvonne Farley also deserves congratulations for her article on the deplorable state of salaries for librarians in the January issue of "American Libraries." All of us can certainly appreciate the importance of this issue, which has been chosen by our Public Library Division this year as one of their major topics. Library Journal has also just named her a "Mover and Shaker" in a special issue recognizing librarians and library supporters.

Special thanks also go to everyone who helped with Spring Fling including Connie Clay, Ann Farr, Myra Ziegler, Julie Spiegler, Steve Christo, Georgina Doss, Chris Gore and all those other conscientious individuals who volunteered; it was a great success during a beautiful early spring week and everyone involved deserves the gratitude of the rest of us for all their hard work.

I would like to personally thank everyone who has been so helpful to me in just these few months; between the Planning Process and the programming for the Fall Conference the next few months should be educational as well.

Academic News

Marshall University has received \$100,000 from Speedway and The Ashland Inc. Foundation to support the University Libraries' Year of the Book Endowment. (C&RL News, November 2001)

■ ■ ■

Former West Virginia Congressman and Secretary of State Kenneth Hechler has donated his papers, photographs, and memorabilia to Marshall University—along with a \$25,000 contribution to support the preservation of the collection. Hechler, 86, helped edit *The Public Papers and Addresses of Franklin Delano Roosevelt* and served as a speechwriter for President Harry S. Truman in the late '40s and early '50s. Of his long years in public services (1957-2001), Hechler is proudest of being the only

congressman to march with the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., in Selma, Alabama; playing a key role in funding black lung disease benefits and passing the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969; and bringing together the secretaries of state and attorneys general of 33 states to support limits on campaign spending. Following his service with Truman, Hechler joined the faculty in Political Science at then Marshall College (1957). His students convinced him to run for Congress, and—against the odds—he won. He served as Representative from West Virginia's 4th District from 1959 to 1977. He won election as Secretary of State in 1985 and served in that office through January 2001. He is currently teaching an honors symposium on

"The Truman Years" at Marshall. Hechler has written six books (including *The Bridge at Remagen*, which was later made into a movie) and has been the subject of a biography, *Ken Hechler: Maverick Public Servant*, by the late Charles H. Moffat. (C&RL News, November 2001)

■ ■ ■

Shepherd College has received \$5.9 million in federal funding to remodel its 30-year-old Scarborough Library. Senator Robert C. Byrd added the funds to a 2001 appropriations bill. The facility serves 4000 Shepherd students, as well as staff and members of the community. The renovation includes the addition of study areas and new reference and circulation sections.

Around the State

In January, the Kanawha County Public Library Board, chose architects ZMM Inc. of Charleston, in partnership with K.R. Montgomery & Associates of Anderson, IN, to design its proposed new main library. The firm will begin by evaluating potential Charleston sites. Linda Wright, Director, and her board remain committed to a downtown location for the new building. Also working on the plans is Richard Rosenthal, a library building consultant from Charlotte, NC, who will help the board and staff decide all space and function needs of a new building.

Meanwhile, at the existing main library building, \$15,000 in improvements were recently completed to provide additional space for the fast-growing audio-visual department. Renovations including removing a wall, adding new shelving, and re-carpeting. A "teen zone" was created at the same time to hold CDs, DVDs, and books for young adults.

Also on tap in January at Kanawha County Public Library was the launch of the library's OnLine Book Club. Available through the Library's website, patrons can sign up to receive about five minutes worth of reading each day via email. Seven different categories are available, including original, teen, business, good news (inspirational), fiction, romance, and audio.

■ ■ ■
In January, at Brooke County, voters passed a three-year levy which will help build an annex to the Wellsburg building and renovate portions of the Follansbee Branch. The vote passed with 992 for and 559 against, a 63.8 percent majority. A 60 percent majority is required to pass a levy.

■ ■ ■
The Summers County Public Library celebrated National Library Week by challenging students at the Summers County Middle School and High School to a computer based library game. Students accessed the game from the Library's web page and had to correctly answer 25 questions about the library to complete the game. Answers could be found in the Library or on the Library's web page. Students who answered the 25 questions correctly got a "secret password" which they submitted to the library for a prize. First, second, and third prizes provided by the Friends of the Summers County Public Library, were awarded for middle and high school categories.

Although librarian Myra Ziegler conceived of the game as the result of a brainstorming session at her Greenbrier County service center, the Library's 18-year-old webmaster, Jacob Amick, worked out the technical details and got the game up and running.

Obituaries

Alfred E. "Gene" Tribett

WVLA's loyal and dedicated lobbyist, Alfred E. "Gene" Tribett, died suddenly on February 1, 2002. Gene was a retired engineer, after 44 years of service with the former B&O Railroad. He was a Navy veteran of WWII, a member of McMechen City Council from 1976-1982; mayor of McMechen 1982-1989, a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates from 1989-1991; and served as WVLA's lobbyist from 1992 through 1998 and again for a final year during the 2001 legislative session.

Gene was born on July 24, 1928 in McMechen, son of the late I.R. and Anna B. Cooper Tribett. He was preceded in death by his wife, Janet Kinney Tribett, June 1996; and by a brother. Surviving are a son and six daughters, a brother and three sisters, 17 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Donald D. Foos

Donald D. Foos died March 31, 2002, in Tuscaloosa, AL. He was 73. He is survived by his wife, Nancy C. Pack of Tuscaloosa.

Dr. Foos began his library career in 1966 with the Alabama Public Library Services. He also served as Dean and Professor of the Graduate School of Library Science at Louisiana State University from 1971-79, and was Director of the Center for Library and Information Sciences Program at Marshall University in Huntington, WV.

His extensive publications and advocacy for people with disabilities led to his work with library service for the aging population. Dr. Foos was selected to represent libraries at the White House Conference on Aging in 1990. He also served as the Executive Director of the Tri-State Resource and Advocacy Corporation in Chattanooga, TN.

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West Virginia Libraries

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Minutes were approved at the March 1, 2002 meeting of the Executive Board

WVLA Executive Board Meeting
North Bend State Park
December 7, 2001

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:36 a.m. by President Sharon Saye. In attendance were: Tim Balch, Olivia Bravo, Monica Brooks, Steve Christo, Connie Clay, Floyd Fullen, Betty Gunnoe, Julie Gunsaulis, Ann Henricksson, Beth Nicholson, Penny Pugh, Bill Rafter, Susan Reilly, Judy Rule, Sharon Saye, Julie Spiegler, Patsy Stephenson, Dottie Thomas, Myra Ziegler, J.D. Waggoner.

Judy Rule was reappointed as parliamentarian.

II. Minutes

The minutes of the October 31, 2001 meeting were approved with one correction (paragraph 6b - the College and University Division is no longer pursuing action for faculty status).

III. President's Report - Sharon Saye

President Saye thanked those who were leaving the Board for their hard work and dedication.

Her goals for the next year are: keeping the strategic planning on track (Dottie Thomas is acting head of the process); improving the lobbying efforts of the association; and expanding membership participation. Judy Duncan will be asked to include these goals in continuing education sessions. President Saye also recommended a goal for the Executive Board to hold a session at the March meeting with Steve Christo as chairman of the WVLA Committee of the planning process concerning the future of the association and any changes that need to be made in its structure and goals. She also stated that her personal goal was to try to streamline the grunt work of president (e.g. section reports), such as by posting on line. She will keep Wednesday reserved for association work.

Packets were distributed with the agenda, calendar, conference evaluations, committee lists, and handbook of organi-

zation.

Judy Rule and Steve Christo distributed "WVLA 101" information sheets. Judy stressed the responsibility of members to recruit new members and participate in the organization. Steve emphasized that all expenses are budgeted; otherwise, the money has to be approved in advance. Executive Board members can be paid travel expenses for board meetings, but not to the annual conference. Honoraria over \$100 for speakers for programs at Spring Fling, the fall conference, and workshops must be pre-approved.

IV. Treasurer's Report - Steve Christo

A non-final report for last fiscal year was distributed. As of now, we have a net balance of \$23,979.55 for the year, with a conference profit of \$11,764.68. Myra Ziegler moved that the treasurer's report be accepted and checks #1067 to #1101 be approved; Olivia Bravo seconded. Motion was approved.

V. Membership - Myra Ziegler

Membership is currently at 674. She has modified the registration form to reflect changes approved at conference. She changed 'address' to 'mailing address' (not "home" and "work"), and added three check-off boxes (to keep off vendor lists, not receive a membership card, and prevent inclusion in the on-line directory). Myra Ziegler moved to set the corporate/institutional membership category dues at \$100; Julie Spiegler seconded. Floyd Fullen asked if members could contribute an additional amount, and was answered in the affirmative. The motion was approved.

VI. Division Reports

Special - Bill Rafter. There has been a decrease in membership. They will have a survey to find out what the members want.

Academic - Penny Pugh. She wants to increase membership and participation. The division will do a directory of academic librarians (to be published on the web) and a survey. Judy Rule asked if the directory

could be included in the Library Commission's annual report. The problem with this is that the directory will include more than directors. After a discussion of privacy concerns it was concluded that work addresses were probably acceptable.

Trustees - Floyd Fullen. He is planning to send a letter to each Trustee Board chairperson. The membership wants more Saturday sessions; the Association needs to be trustee-friendly if we want them to participate more.

Public - Connie Clay. She is working on Spring Fling and had invited Mrs. Bush (the "First Librarian"). Republicans will do a fund raiser for Representative Capito on Thursday night. There was general approval by the board. There is a form on the web page to suggest programs. She asked that we think about providing scholarship money for annual conference attendance by small library staff. Sharon Saye suggested that the continuing education fund could be used for this. It was suggested that slack time be included in the conference schedule for networking and individual discussions.

VII. Round table reports

Literacy - Olivia Bravo. She is planning to get members more involved and develop membership lists so we know who is in what. The information can come from the membership database.

VIII. ALA Councilor - Monica Brooks.

She will be attending the ALA Midwinter meeting.

IX. Federal relations - Betty Gunnoe.

Legislative Days have been set for May 6-7. On Monday, May 6, ALA has scheduled training on the issues that need to be covered. On the following day, WVLA representatives will visit legislative offices. There is no money in the WVLA budget for expenses. The LSTA is up for renewal. Steve Christo asked about security concerns limiting access to legislators. Betty replied that it probably would not, but she has no firm information yet. Sharon Saye urged wide

participation, and suggested the possibility of a fall trip to Washington.

X. SELA – Judy Rule.

The Bi-Annual conference will be October 24-26. There was a call from SELA for papers to be published in *Southeastern Librarian*. Monica Brooks will put information on the web page.

XI. WV Libraries – Dottie Thomas.

It has been difficult getting newsletter articles from people. The next issue should be out soon, with a second one following. An issue for consideration by the Strategic Planning process was suggested: the number of newsletter issues each year. Roundtable and division news should be sent to Dottie by email. Julie Spiegler asked about including pictures; Dottie will check with the printers.

XII. Library Commission – J.D. Waggoner

The LSTA evaluation has been received. Regional meetings tended to have low attendance, and little feedback. An RFP on software should be out in January and they are trying to simplify the process. A meeting with subhub directors will be held before January. J.D. has been told to cut 3% from the 2002-2003 general revenue budget. Vacancies, such as those in the Communications Division, probably will not be filled. The Library Commission meeting for December was cancelled. Three terms on the Commission ended June 30, 2001: Duke Horstemeyer was reappointed, Emily Holroyd replaced Charles Pace, and Alan Gould probably will be replaced from the third district. Suggestions were welcomed for replacements. The LSTA amount may not be increased. Floyd Fullen had questions about a letter sent out by the WVLC regarding CIPA implementation. J.D. replied that there have been training sessions and letter instructions. Beth Nicholson noted that information has not been helpful, as the libraries need a concrete set of guidelines and deadlines. J.D. promised to look into the matter. The federal court case has been pushed to late March. General discussion ensued.

XIII. Marketing – Patsy Stephenson.

There was a profit of \$1,700 last year. The

stock will be moved from Charleston to a basement storage area in Marshall's Drinko Library, and a university van will be provided for travel. Marketing people will be at conferences, the Cabell County Public Library Book Fair, etc. She is enthusiastically looking forward to this year.

XIV. Committee reports – Sharon Saye.

Most committees are largely intact, with a few new people added. Steve Christo will stay on the Handbook Committee until March. The Nominations Committee has been totally revised, with the chair from an academic library. Suggestions for additional members of Public Relations Committee were given. Dottie Thomas moved that the committee assignments be accepted; Myra Ziegler seconded. The motion was approved.

XV. Old business

A West Virginia Digital Library update was given by Judy Rule. The Steering Committee is meeting next Friday. Monica Brooks remarked that information packets and videos are available; black and white copies of material will be made for membership renewal letters.

The strategic planning committees will meet on January 30th, at 10 a.m., in the Benedum Civic Center in Bridgeport.

With the approval of the Executive Board, Monica Brooks moved and Steve Christo seconded that Beth Stefanowicz be appointed as chair of the School Library Division. The motion was approved.

A letter from Dottie Thomas to J.D. Waggoner, Interim Secretary of the WVLC, is in the packet for informational purposes.

XVI. New Business

The proposed budget, including conference budget information, was presented by Treasurer Steve Christo. In addition, there was discussion of ways to fund a lobbyist by foregoing a site visit by the Executive Board to Pipestem, cutting one issue of the newsletter, and by soliciting donations from individuals and Friends groups. Steve Christo moved that \$1000 be taken from the Executive Board budget and \$1000 from the newsletter budget to provide funding for a lobbyist. Monica Brooks seconded the motion. The motion was adopted and the proposed budget was adopted as a work-

ing budget.

Sharon Saye announced that a letter from Rebecca Van Der Meer has been received (in packet) with a proposal to invite MLS distance education providers to Spring Fling, and waive vendors fees. A discussion followed. Steve Christo moved to accept the proposal; Myra Ziegler seconded. The motion was approved.

Sharon Saye suggested sending thank you notes to vendors after conference, including a 10% discount coupon that could only be used at the 2002 Spring Fling and Fall conferences. This would be applicable to last Fall Conference vendors. After discussion, Julie Spiegler moved that the suggestion be approved; Olivia Bravo seconded. The motion was approved.

Susan Reilly, representing the Legislative Committee reported three goals: a 25 cent increase in Grants in Aid; support for the WV Digital Library; and support for the "carrot approach" to increasing local funding. A schedule for visiting legislators will be arranged. They will work with the Public Relations Committee. The Association is trying to get a lobbyist. March 5th will be Legislative Day, with a low key approach and displays in the rotunda. Susan recommended working with local leaders to contact legislators. Dottie Thomas moved that the legislative goals be approved as presented; Penny Pugh seconded. The motion carried.

Sharon Saye reported that Yvonne Farley had forwarded her invitation to attend a hearing on status, salaries, and pay equity at ALA Midwinter meeting. Yvonne has been appointed to the ALA Task Force on salaries. Monica was asked to attend the hearing as the WVLA chapter representative, but she is not arriving until Saturday afternoon and would not be in New Orleans in time. A discussion concerning reimbursement for expenses for Yvonne at Midwinter ensued. Myra Ziegler moved that the association authorize reimbursement of up to \$350 (\$175 from the Public Library Division and \$175 from Intellectual Freedom Committee) for Yvonne Farley to attend the joint hearing at the ALA Midwinter meeting, with the understanding that this does not set a precedent for future meetings. Connie Clay seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Steve Christo reported that Pipestem

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Minutes

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State Park confirmed reservations at \$75 single/double, regular view, for the Fall 2002 conference.

Dottie Thomas presented a request from Steve Fesenmaier for Board endorsement of the "One State, One Book, One Movie" program. Steve Christo moved that the association endorse the concept, without financial or other obligation; Floyd Fullen seconded. The motion was approved.

Julie Spiegler asked that we think about a joint conference with the Reading Council at the Greenbrier in 2003. There is a problem with the difference in dates, since WVLA has a contract already signed. Judy Rule pointed out that SELA has joint conferences with state organizations and others. Julie will continue to discuss this with the Reading Council and report again in March.

Monica Brooks described new charges by WVNET (e.g. time as well as space for the web page), their sporadic billing, and inadequate information given. She propose moving our site to a commercial provider, who can provide ecommerce, other features, and stable billing. Steve Christo suggested having Cabell County Public Library host it, with domain name registered. The issue was held over pending discussion in the planning process. Dottie Thomas will work with newsletter planning. Monica Brooks moved that "wvlibraries.org" be registered; Steve Christo seconded. The motion was approved.

XVII. No further correspondence has been received.

XVIII. Announcements

The web site now has a page for the planning process, and will have board minutes.

The next meeting will be March 1, 2002, in Bridgeport.

XIX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Timothy A. Balch
WVLA Secretary

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2002 Committees

Auditing

- Kelly Funkhouser, Chair - Morgantown Public Library
- Ruth Ann Powell - Fairmont State College
 - Robert Gay, Trustee - Elkins - Randolph Library

Conference

- Conference Activities, Chair
- Julie Spiegler - Kanawha County Public Library

Programming, Chair

- Sharon R. Saye - Bridgeport Public Library

Constitution and Bylaws

- Karen Goff, Chair - West Virginia Library Commission
- Josephine Fidler - Retired
- Pam Ford - Marshall University
- Chuck Julian - Wheeling Jesuit College

Continuing Education/Scholarship

Term expires December 2002

- Eva McGuire - Craft Memorial Public Library
- Rebecca Van Der Meer - West Virginia Library Commission
- Cheri Davis - Rupert Public Library
- Mary-Bess Halford - Bethany College

Term expires December 2003

- Judy Duncan, Chair - St. Albans Public Library
- Ann Farr - Greenbrier County Public Library
- Myra Lowe - West Virginia University
- Stephen Rowe - Concord College

Elections

Tellers

- Susan Reilly, Chair - City-County Public Library
- Mary Kay Wallace - Brooke County

Ballots

- Sharon Turner, Chair - Morgantown Public Library
- Kelly Funkhouser - Morgantown Public Library

Finance

- Steve Christo, Chair - Cabell County Public Library
- Julie Spiegler - Kanawha County Public Library
- Sharon Saye - Bridgeport Public Library

Handbook

- Steve Christo - Cabell County Public Library

Intellectual Freedom

Term expires 2002

- Gibbs Kinderman, Trustee - Pocahontas County
- Jennifer Sias - Marshall University
- Mary Jane Howard - Cabell County Public Library

Term expires 2003

- Chris Hatten - Huntington Museum of Art
- Virginia Rugeley, Trustee - Kanawha County Public Library
- Danny McMillion - Raleigh County Public Library

Term expires 2004

- Yvonne Farley, Chair - Kanawha County Public Library
- Alan Burgess - Capitol High School
- Thelma Hutchins - Fairmont State College

Legislative

Term expires 2002

- Peggy Bias, Chair - Putnam County Public Library
- Brenda Riffle - Hampshire Public Library
- Judy Rule - Cabell County Public Library
- Myra Ziegler - Summers County Public Library

Term expires 2003

- Beth Nicholson - Clarksburg-Harrison Public Library
- Barbara Winters - Marshall University
- Susan Reilly - City-County Public Library
 - Judy Gunsaulis - Fayette County Public Library

Term expires 2004

- Betty Gunnoe - Martinsburg Public Library - Federal Coordinator
- Ann Henriksson - Shepherd College
- Frances O'Brien - West Virginia University
- Linda Lindsey - Richwood Public Library

Marketing

- Patsy Stephenson, Chair - Marshall University
- Judy Duncan - St. Albans Public Library
 - Lynn Pauley - Jackson County Public Library
- Stacy Richardson - Cabell County Public Library

Membership

- Myra Ziegler, Chair - Summers County Public Library
- Linda Hedding - South Charleston Public Library
- Alice Thomas - Vienna Public Library
- Ron Titus - Marshall University

Nominating

- Phyllis Freedman, Chair - Salem International University
- Jill Dotts - Marion County Public Library
 - Pam Coyle - South Charleston Public Library

Public Relations

Open - Appointed by First Vice-President

Resolutions and Awards

- Tim Balch, Chair - Marshall University
- Dottie Thomas - Ohio County Public Library

Site Selection

- Steve Christo, Chair - Cabell County Public Library
- Betty Gunnoe - Martinsburg Public Library
- Pam Coyle - South Charleston Public Library

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WVLA planning process half complete

The Planning Process of the West Virginia Library Association is at the halfway point. We have held two meetings of all the committees with brief programs, one in October, and another in January. Several of the committees have been working through email and online; others have been busy doing research, and holding separate meetings. The process has been very interesting, sometimes passionate, as committee members establish points of view and reconcile them with a common vision for the state.

The Chairs of the committees as well as the President, the Past President and the First Vice-President make up the Steering Committee that has met to talk about the mechanics of the process. It is hoped that the committees will have established a vision statement, goals and objectives to be submitted to the membership by the Fall Conference in Pipestem on October 16-18.

All the committee members and their chairs have been working diligently these last six months to identify a vision for West Virginia libraries. Each of the chairs has submitted a brief summary of what they have accomplished and are working on at the moment.

All the chairs appreciate any comments from the membership about their concerns. Their email addresses conclude each paragraph.

■ ■ ■

The Collection Development and Resource Sharing Subcommittee for WVLA's Planning Process has met twice and has formulated a tentative vision statement and a list of goals necessary to achieve its mission. Of course, our goals involve both print and electronic materials as well as a creative method for implementing a newer version of "gifts & exchange." If you have any suggestions or ideas for helping WV libraries in these areas, please feel free to send them to Charley Hively, Chair, at the following email address: hivelyc@clark.lib.wv.us.

■ ■ ■

The funding group of WVLA's planning process has engaged in general discussion of the overall funding situation relating to WV's public libraries, touching in part on academic and school libraries. The group has reviewed statistical information and met

with Michael Dougherty of WVU Extension Services to discuss his research on *Innovative Financing Solutions in West Virginia Local Government*. At their upcoming meeting on April 30th, the group will focus on forming a vision statement and listing "what we are doing right" and "areas for improvement." From there we will begin forming goals for addressing funding opportunities for West Virginia's Libraries.

Peggy Bias, Chair, can be reached at pbias@cabell.lib.wv.us.

■ ■ ■

The WVLA subcommittee has been examining the bylaws of many other state library associations including those that border West Virginia and those that are similar to West Virginia in population and size. The subcommittee is also viewing the current WVLA bylaws in comparison to how the association actually conducts its business. Areas where changes to the bylaws would be beneficial to WVLA are being considered. Submitted by Steve Christo, Chair who can be reached at schristo@cabell.lib.wv.us.

■ ■ ■

The WVLA Technology Subcommittee immediately formed a listserve web page and hypertext archive to communicate among ourselves. All materials can be found at: <http://www.marshall.edu/library/wvla/planning/>

■ ■ ■

Earlier this year, the committee took the plunge by drafting the first version of the strategic planning document we hope to provide at Fall Conference. So far, each member has attended and/or contributed to the committee's activities either in person or online. The committee has identified several areas of concern in which objectives and goals are being identified or each. They include: Infrastructure, access, patrons, resources, information sharing, information literacy, assessment and standards, statewide coordination, security (includes technology disaster planning, sabotage, off-site back-up storage etc.) and personnel (includes salary issues for professional and paraprofessional library staff, recruitment, retention, continuing education, IT professional support).

The document is a work in progress and

is forming thanks to the input from several of our educational support agencies and associations. Jay Justice and Henry Blosser of WVNET have provided details regarding technology infrastructure for the WVNET backbone in WV. Harlan White of the WVLC has provided a detailed snapshot as to where our public libraries stand in regard to infrastructure and support. Phyllis Justice at the WV Department of Education has provided input to assist in assessing the needs of the K-12 population in our school libraries.

Over all, the process is underway and we are hoping that we can provide a basis for decision-making and a framework for planning for WV libraries this fall. Submitted by Monica Brooks, Chair who can be reached at brooks@Marshall.edu.

■ ■ ■

The Governance and Structure Committee has met four times since the initial meeting in October. Legislative Day and Spring Fling provided the opportunity for the group to work on a tentative vision statement and goals. Each committee member researched other states to see how they dealt with basic issues such as certification, standards, continuing education, accountability, advocacy, co-operation, and equitable access. Committee members represent libraries of all sizes from the smallest single unit to a large system. Currently members are filling in the details of each of four goals, each bringing divergent viewpoints, and working for a common vision. Betty Gunnoe, Chair, can be reached at gunnoeb@martin.lib.wv.us.

■ ■ ■

The Continuing Education Committee went beyond the meetings to develop and distribute a survey to West Virginia librarians determining their wants in terms of continuing education, types of education, and methods of delivery. The results have been tabulated and will be used to decide on the structure, process, and audience for continuing education in the library field. A vision, mission and goals have been developed and will be communicated to the Steering Committee. Phyllis Freedman, Chair, can be reached at freedman@salemiu.edu.

New Poca Library dedication



By Peggy Bias

Photos by Steve Christo

The movement to build the Poca Community Library came from Lula Parsons, a 97-year-old retired schoolteacher who was on the original advisory board for the Poca Outpost Library that was opened over 20 years ago. Mrs. Parsons decided that it was important to the education of the children of the Poca area that they have a larger library and she told her "boys" (two mature, successful businessmen) that she wanted them to make it happen....and they did.

Mr. Fletcher Parsons of Appalachian Log Structures met with the mayor of Poca, a member of the Library Board and the county library director and indicated that his family would be willing to donate the materials for a log structure including the sub flooring and that he would be willing to initiate a fund raising project by challenging all alumni of Poca High School to donate at least one dollar to the project. He indicated that if a committee were formed to work with him, he would oversee the project. The Committee began fundraising in July of 2000. After \$25,000 had been raised, Mr. Parsons kept his end of the bargain and the logs were delivered.

After hundreds of fundraising

letters, grant requests, bake sales, turkey shoots, gospel sings, raffle tickets, eyeballing, and hand shaking, the Committee raised approximately \$128,000. In addition, thousands of hours of volunteer labor and thousands of dollars of discounted prices resulted in the Grand Opening of the Poca Community Library on December 9th, 2001. Mrs. Parsons cut the ribbon.

The Library is a 2400 square foot log structure that can be seen on the web site for Appalachian Log Structures and on the Putnam County Library web site. Another retired school teacher/principal/superintendent, 89-year-old Roy McClanahan, built the wooden shelving in the building as well as an abutment to the 100-year-old

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Senator Oshel Craig
(At the dedication, Craig also promised to find the \$20,000 needed to finish the project.)



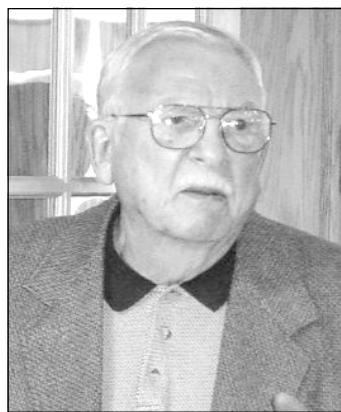
U.S. Representative Shelley Moore Capito



Fletcher Parsons of Appalachian Log Structures in Ripley
who donated the shell



Capito presenting a children's book to Peggy Bias for the "Joy of Reading" corner.



Jack Kessler, Putnam Library Board President and WVLC Commissioner



WVLC Interim Executive Secretary J.D. Waggoner

Cabell County Public Library celebrates 100th anniversary

—continued from page 1

planned for the year. Billed as a “Gourmet Festival of Italian Food and Wine,” the gala was held on the evening of March 2, and featured five courses of Italian cuisine each served with a different Italian wine. The festive decorations and the live accordionist set the mood and a wine expert told the crowd of 80 library supporters about each wine as it was served. The \$150 per person event was a successful fund-raiser and it may be considered again next year – possibly with a French theme.

The following afternoon on Sunday, March 3, the library hosted a birthday party. There was a proclamation from the mayor of Huntington, well wishes from the Interim Secretary of the West Virginia Library Commission and a letter of congratulations from Congressman Nick Rahall. Musical entertainment was provided by a local group, “The 1937 Flood,” storytelling took place in the Youth Services Department and the Friends served cake and punch. The atrium of the library was filled with the annual display of quilts from Creative Quilters and the staff added to the decorations in the library with hundreds of balloons and displays depicting the history of the library and the seven branches.

These first two events have set the tone for what will be a very busy year for the staff. Here’s a few of the many other events planned for the year: In March, we will have a book discussion about “Travels With

Charley” that follows our special giveaway of copies of the book in February to commemorate the 100th birthday of John Steinbeck. In April, we will sponsor a reception for the Tri-State area libraries and will host special events and displays for National Library Week. Our Fourth Annual “Music on the Plaza” will feature musical groups in front of the library every Friday at noon in May. Later in the year, we will have a special summer reading program focusing on the history of Cabell County and the library, a reunion for all former employees of the library, the “Go Figure” exhibit from 3M, and a “Murder at the Library” mystery evening. In addition, we will have several authors talking about their works at the library throughout the year.

One of the last events in the year will be the Ohio River Festival of Books on November 8th and 9th at the Huntington Civic Arena. The staff of our library has coordinated the efforts of libraries in the tri-state area to obtain authors and exhibitors and to write the grants necessary to host such an event. Already, over 50 authors are under contract to be a part of the festival.

In all, the first 100 years has brought an exponential increase in library services to the residents of Cabell County and the surrounding tri-state area. As we continue this yearlong celebration, we look forward to the next 100 years.

Circus theme selected by Children’s Roundtable

At Spring Fling this April, the Children’s Roundtable of West Virginia Library Association voted for the statewide 2004 Summer Reading Program theme. The members voted overwhelmingly for Circus, with a suggested subtitle of “Under the Big Book”.

The members also nominated Vickie Howser of City-County Public Library in Moundville as new co-chair of the

Roundtable. The formal election will be held at the WVLA Annual Conference this Fall. Vickie will take over from Georgina Doss of Milton who will step down after serving for two years. The other co-chair is Chris Gore of the Princeton Public Library.

The 2003 Summer Reading Program theme, voted on at last year’s Spring Fling is “Camp Out at The Library”.

Commission News

Commissioner reappointed

Delbert J. “Duke” Horstemeyer was reappointed to the Library Commission by Governor Wise. His new term ends June 30, 2005.

Search for new secretary continues

The search for a new Secretary for the West Virginia Library Commission was extended through May 31, 2002, by a vote of the Search Committee. The Committee indicated that an extended timeline and additional advertising was desirable to ensure that all possible qualified candidates would have the opportunity to apply. The search extension moves the projected selection date forward to late Summer 2002.

New Poca Library dedication

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Library Bureau oak circulation desk, and a sculpted rocking chair dedicated to the Readers of Poca. The Children’s section of the Library has been designated the “Joy of Reading” corner and dedicated to Joy Wrozniewski, a Poca elementary school teacher who was killed last year. Mrs. Wrozniewski’s former students provided a musical program for the opening ceremony.

Peggy Bias, Putnam County Library Director, said in retrospect, “It’s not the easiest way to build a library but it is the most rewarding. The results of the efforts of a large number of people working on a project are far better since there are more good ideas.”

Events

May

Get Caught Reading Month
Older Americans Month
Women's Health Care Month

1 Mother Goose Day

June

13-19 ALA National Conference in Atlanta

July

Anti-Boredom Month
National Baked Bean Month
National Recreation and Parks Month

1 International Joke Day

4 Independence Day

September

22-27 Library Basics—sponsored
by WV Library Commission
30- Rural Libraries Conference in
Oct. 2 Columbus, OH

October

11-12 West Virginia Book Festival in Charleston
16-18 WVLA Conference at Pipestem

November

9 Ohio River Festival of Books in Huntington
17-23 Children's Book Week

NOTE: West Virginia Library Commission meetings are set monthly and dates will vary. Please check the WVLC web site for the exact date, time, agenda and minutes each month at <http://www.wvlib.org>

A note from the editors

West Virginia Libraries
welcomes suggestions for articles
from librarians, support staff,
trustees and friends.

Articles may be submitted in
writing, typewritten, by e-mail or
on computer disk. If submitting
material on computer disk, please
use 3-1/2" disk and save your file to
disk as an ASCII file and submit a
hard copy (printout) of the
material on the disk.

Article Submission Schedule:

January 15 for February issue
March 15 for April issue
May 15 for June issue
July 15 for August issue
September 15 for October issue
November 15 for December issue

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